1/24/68

Dear Hal,

Your 1/21 arrived this a.m. With reference to the arrangements, fine. Glad you have a job. I know only better than I'd like the importance of an income!

I've read the letter and without consulting it again I'll reply in haste to get it outgoing tonight. I have to go to town to make a long-promised speech at the high school. I'm more than usually tired because I was up until almost 6 a.m. The half-Cuban phoned me late last night then early in the a.m. We talked so long I ran out of tape and in switching missed the last part of our fascinating conversation. He is quite informative, willing to be more so, suggested I tape it, thinks Cubans not the assassins, for he knows them so well-he considers himself not one- acknowledges what amounts to close company connections, told me of his New York police connections and what he and they did jointly and what they almost did, how he worked to break up demonstrations, etc. -quite a bit. I would not be surprised if he is still a company man. He was to have been in the political group, the government, if the Bay of Pigs succeeded. I'll tell you more when I'm there. I presume you recognize who I'm talking about. He is willing to talk to Jim- anxious- and I wonder if he fears the trial will damage his present and very promising business arrangements in Texas or whether he is still serving other interests. He also want to write a book and wants me in on it. I've had a call in to Jim for several hours. But this may explain my haste and fatigue.

Had a note from Jonn today. He doesn't say much in it but offers some opinions that are interesting and probably correct. He thinks my letter ended any chance of a dialogue with Vnruh. Where we disagree is that I think there was no chance. What Jonn apparently does not realize is that I intend to say something about friends and the nature of friendships when I am out there, given the chance. That, too, is very much part of the story. Had the late President had a single honorable friend of the many he is said to have had in high places, the entire history since might have been different. They have legs. I intend to try and jerk a few of them up, or in any event, leave a public record for them to live with. And seek the votes of those who loved the late President. There are many of these in California. And elsewhere. Jonn says he will not allow me within 20 miles and that he read farthur than the first sentence of the third paragraph unless he has "masochistic tendencies".

Some of your letter is feedback, like the convention bit. Steve has been working on that for some time. I wonder if it is worth the time, as compared with other possibilities. Most of it is quite interesting. I'm sending Jim a copy of most of it. I gather Art has made indirect reference to some of what you did. I am certainly glad I took a Saturday, most of it, to brief him and give him copies of my appropriate files.

Rye is out of communication. I hope it stays that way. He never called back when he was supposed to. I knew about the Star. Linda told me. She also told me what they said of Tom's direct response. We are all in substantial agreement on what the affair smacks of, and if all of us reached the same conclusion independently, I guess it is not illogical. I also involved the Feebees, which, I think, killed the prospects. While I was not quite this blunt, when they demurred on the grounds of jurisdiction, I asked them if they were trying for two out of two, That did it. I also offered them a tape of my conversation with Harv and Dick's voice on it. They declined. And I have this.

I have no address on the LA Free Press. I wrote them several months ago and never got any acknowledgement. Can you subscribe for we when you are in touch with them and I'll pay you when I'm there. Also, if Sylvia or Harer can supply a dub of the Forum, I'd appreciate it. The people in New York do not know me and the explanations will be time consuming, ect. If not the whole thing, that part.

I hav something new on the train. A man who was there has phoned me to say that when he was near the Trade Mart his car was stopped my the searching of a stopped train where he saw a man arrested. No description. It was this fast: He had been at the first car stopped at Main and Houston by the motorcade and when that traffic was turned loose, he follwed police instructions on the route away. This is when it happened, he says.

I have no more on Jerry Bruno. I knew of the Elkins affidavit and I know a little about the picture. I have seen it. Without taking the time to look it up- and I'd forgotten about Wright- are these statements all in the 26? Should I get them or ask for them from the Arcgives? If so, can some one give me all the data I should have to make the request? You may recall from my first book and the discussion of the train that this has interested me, but like so much, I've forgotten. There is little doubt this is Florer also, the rest fits him.

I'll be surprised is Hall's defense is not federal. Rucardo toldme about a Miami lawyer who had been a friend of his who he did not now trust.

Remind me to tell you the Ward story and what may be behind the accident.

The name De Conford is familiar but I cannot recall why.

If you ever get a copy of the Hall record, please get me one.

The name Paterson also seems familiar. When I return I'll be taping another interview with a contact who formerly lived in Dallas and who has asked me to return. I may do it sooner. It might not be a bad idea if you had a list of names for me to ask about....If the Guiterrez thing needs further checking out, I have a new friend who I think is able to identify all the Bay of Pigs people and is willing. Let me know if you want. I haven't but would like Taber's book, now and for TIGER TO RIDE.

I want, very much, to have a rifle as close to exactly the C-2766 as possible, and with the identical scope. If there is one out there, please let me know. Klein has no more. I have something new on it. It can be urgently important. Steve had a friend who had the rifle but, I think, no scope. Also, with clip, and there are at least two clips available for that model.

See you soon. I'm now on the plane that leaves Chicago the night of 2/2 at 6:35. It is nonstop and gets there about 8:35 your time, I think the same plane I used last time/ Two things that I can now anticipate can change this until the next a.m. I am seeing someone at Playboy and I may get to tape an extra TV show. If this happens, I'll be on the plane I took the first time, arriving SF 10:55 a.m. 2/3. I'll let you know. If you do not hear anything from Chicago, I'll be there the night of 2/2 about 8:30.

Hurriedly,

P.S. I've been surprised at Phillips' silence. Not a word from or of him.